



Vote NO on SB 6668 and SB 1178

NUTMEG CHROME

Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

Hartford, CT

March 9, 2023

Testifying in opposition to:

SB 6668: An Act Modernizing the Paid Sick Day Statutes

SB 1178: An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days

Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Wendy Sperry and I am the President of Nutmeg Chrome based in West Hartford. We have been in business since 1944. Nutmeg Chrome is a leading provider of chrome and nickel plating services, with a specialty in coating and polishing of molds and dies that produce plastic and rubber parts used in all the facets of our daily lives.

I am writing today in opposition to SB 6668 and SB 1178.

Connecticut currently has a paid sick leave law that applies to businesses with 50 or more employees that employ a list of occupations called 'service workers'. Service workers can earn 1 hour of paid leave for each 40 hours worked, maxing out at 40 hours per year. The law also exempts manufacturers and certain non-profits.

Both SB 6668 and SB 1178 would extend the program to every employee at every employer in the state, expand the number of family members eligible, eliminate exemptions for manufacturers and non-profits, and provide penalties for failure to keep accurate records.

Extending the paid leave program to every employer in the state, at a time when we're coming out of a global pandemic, doesn't seem to be the best way to help small businesses and the workforce shortage we're all experiencing. Between supply chain and workforce shortages, inflation, and rising healthcare costs, we're already doing all we can to keep up.

Since taking effect in 2012, those subject to the new law saw a cost increase of 2-5%, and there is no data that shows less employee turnover or illness in the workplace. Should Connecticut small businesses expect another 2-5% increase in costs?

We already have the most generous paid family and medical leave program in the entire nation, and I do believe most small businesses offer some son of paid leave for their employees.

Please oppose SB 6668 and 5B 1178.

Thank you for your time.

Signed,

Wendy Sperry, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wendy Sperry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.